



NOTICE OF DECISION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Date of Posting: 03/09/2023

Deadline for Appeal: 03/19/2023

Florida Canyon Mining, Inc.
Florida Canyon Mine
WPC Permit NEV0086001

The Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) has decided to issue renewed Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0086001** to Florida Canyon Mining, Inc. This Permit authorizes the construction, operation, and closure of approved mining facilities in Pershing County, Nevada. The Division has been provided with sufficient information, in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through 445A.447, to assure that the waters of the State will not be degraded by this operation, and that public safety and health will be protected.

The Permit will become effective 24 March 2023. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.605 and NAC 445A.407. All requests for appeals must be filed by 5:00 PM, 19 March 2023, on Form 3, with the State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249. For more information, contact Natasha Zittel at (775) 687-9413 or visit the Division public notice website at <https://ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/land>.

Written comments were received during the public comment period from John Hadder, Director, Great Basin Resource Watch. The text of all comments, in some cases excerpted, and the Division responses (in *italics*) are included below as part of this Notice of Decision.

Great Basin Resource Watch, Written Comment 1:

Great Basin Resource Watch appreciates your assistance in gathering materials to review this permit renewal. We do have some concerns regarding this project and the permit as written.

Liner Material and Leak Detection Systems

The construction of two wells (MW-29 and MW-31) as pumpback wells is noted in the Fact Sheet for the current permit renewal and modification. However, the details of the pumpback process (i.e., quantity and quality of said water being pumped back, as well as the anticipated time duration of pumping) is not detailed in this same document. Without



being able to review requested monitoring reports and other supporting documents, GBRW has questions about the actual details of the process involved. It is also difficult to fully understand the layout of all monitoring wells and associated leak detection systems on site, as the only currently available map including well locations was created before the construction of several monitoring and pumpback wells.

Division Response 1:

The Division responded to the request for information on 23 February 2023 and stated that additional time was required to collect the requested information due to current staffing.

Great Basin Resource Watch, Written Comment 2:

Surface Water Degradation

The Florida Canyon Mine site has had historical problems with leakage in their liner systems, and while there have been efforts to replace and update these liners, without current monitoring reports it is unclear what the current status of such leakages and associated water degradations are. Considering the history of leakage, GBRW would like to review any additional information on the original liner systems, especially their specifications and installation dates.

Division Response 2:

GBRW can formally submit a request for this additional information and documentation. In addition, GBRW is welcome to make arrangements to view Florida Canyon Mine files at the Division offices in Carson City during normal business hours..

Great Basin Resource Watch, Written Comment 3:

Conclusion

The Florida Canyon Mine Site has a history of leakages, and a considerable number of elevated constituents have been noted in their monitoring wells on several occasions. Given the available information, GBRW has questions about the current leak detection system and groundwater monitoring, and would appreciate assistance in the conveyance of supporting documentation. GBRW is open to discussing these concerns with both the Bureau and Florida Canyon Mining, Inc.

Division Response 3:

Comment noted.